

# Wisconsin State Legislature

SENATE CHAIR  
**ALBERTA DARLING**

317 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**ROBIN VOS**

309 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8593  
Madison, WI 53708-8953  
Phone: (608) 266-9171

## **Joint Committee on Finance** *100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1911-2011*

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative Robin Vos

Date: August 19, 2011

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011 YoungStar Program from the Department of Children and Families.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:RV:jm



wisconsin department of  
**children + families**

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

July 15, 2011

Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 317 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Robin Vos, Assembly Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 309 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Vos:

This letter provides the Department of Children and Families' 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2011 report on the YoungStar Program. The information below is a compilation of data requested by the Committee related to YoungStar implementation. The information is current thru July 1, 2011.

**Status of YoungStar**

The Consortium (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance and conduct evaluations of programs. As of July 1, 2011, 4,238 applications had been submitted by providers. This included 1,473 licensed group child care centers and 2,765 family and certified providers.

The department and the Consortium conducted an extensive outreach program in May to providers who accept Wisconsin Shares subsidies and had not signed up for YoungStar. This outreach included community meetings, radio Public Service Announcements, targeted mailings, partnerships with community organizations in Milwaukee and phone calls to providers. This resulted in 92% participation rate in YoungStar.

The department developed and fielded a case management system for use by the Consortium. The system interacts with existing department databases to facilitate automated ratings and has been integrated with regulatory information to provide a more robust child care search tool for the public.

Technical assistance or consultations were provided to 1,258 providers. Ratings were completed for 1,516 providers. All provider ratings are scheduled to be completed by December.

T 608.266.8684 F 608.261.6972 [dcf.wi.gov](http://dcf.wi.gov)

### **Evaluation on YoungStar**

The department has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with UW-Madison to conduct a two-year evaluation of YoungStar. Data collection will not begin until 2012 to allow time for the program to become fully implemented.

### **Tiered Reimbursement**

The rate changes proposed in the 5-year plan were adjusted by the 2011-2013 biennial budget. No rate changes have been implemented to date. Beginning July 1, 2012 rate changes will be implemented.

### **Inclusion of School Age Programs**

Before- and after-school programs have not been added to the program to date. The department is working with school age stakeholders around the state to develop a set of quality measures for school age care. The Department anticipates school age programs will begin to enroll in YoungStar early in 2012. Tiered reimbursement for school age programs will be tied to quality ratings beginning fall of 2012.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the YoungStar program and look forward to working with the Committee on strengthening these important services for Wisconsin families.

Sincerely,

Eloise Anderson  
Secretary

cc: Mike Huebsch, Department of Administration  
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau